

# Conference Gram

United Women in Faith, Western North Carolina



United Women in Faith

Western North Carolina

United Women in Faith

## ASSEMBLY 2026

May 15-17, 2026  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
[uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly)

**Dream it!  
Believe it!  
Do it!**

"For such a time as this..." (Esther 4:14)

Has there ever been a more vital time for United Women in Faith to gather and strengthen our community? I have learned so much through my association with local women, women at the district and conference level, and especially through the global sisterhood that is UWFaith over the past 20 years. I have deepened my faith, broadened my faith journey, and developed skills in working for justice and building kin-dom and leadership. Won't you join us in Indianapolis, May 15-17? Won't you invite and enable sisters new to our fellowship to accompany you to this gathering? Won't you convince mothers to share the experience with their daughters, and daughters with their mothers? Won't you stand in the gap with a woman from another generation as a sister in Christ and invite her to travel with you to Assembly 2026?

Registration ends April 13. ([uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly)) Don't delay! Let's run this leg of the race together!!

# Let's be unstoppable together. Who are you going to invite today?

TOGETHER, WE ARE  
**UNSTOPPABLE**



## Calendar of Events 2026

**March 23**  
**Giving Day**

**May 15 - 17**  
**Assembly 2026**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

**June 11 - 13**  
**Spiritual Growth**  
**Lake Junaluska, NC**

**August 21 - 22**  
**Mission u**  
**Catholic Conference Center**  
**Hickory, NC**

**September 12**  
**Conference Annual Celebration**  
**Location: St. Luke's UMC**  
**Hickory, NC**

**October 17**  
**Leadership Development Day**  
**Location: Virtual**

### **Ubuntu Days of Service**

May be held anytime during the year at the discretion of each district.

For detail of our conference events, go online at [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)



Are you ready to Dream it! Believe it! Do it! Well then you are ready for Assembly 2026. This is an amazing Spirit filled experience with community gatherings, workshops and inspiring guest speakers. Picture a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an UNSTOPPABLE sisterhood. May 15-17 in Indianapolis, Indiana is where the excitement will be. This will be the first self-sustaining Assembly. Registration is now open .

**Need A Ride?**

NC Conference has a chartered a bus. The bus will be stopping in the Greensboro-Winston Salem area to pick up folks from Western NC. Let’s help them fill the bus.

Full bus cost: \$270/person

(They currently have 16 people signed up for a 34-passenger bus. Less than 34 riders will raise the cost.)

Dates: Thursday, May 14-Sunday, May 17

Please contact: [janetshew@nccumc.org](mailto:janetshew@nccumc.org)

NC Conference UWF president

Please do not pass up this opportunity to come together to celebrate faith, empowerment, and sisterhood like never before. The only way to make it better would be to invite a friend to come with you!

**Stacey Abrams**



**Keynote Speaker**

**Carolyn Abrams**



**Keynote Speaker**

**We are thrilled to share that Assembly 2026 will host longtime United Methodists Stacey Abrams and longtime UWFaith member Rev. Carolyn Abrams in conversation as our Inspiration Speakers.**

## Treasurer's 2025 Financial Report

Western North Carolina United Women in Faith, YOU made the following happen in support of United Women in Faith Missions around the World in 2025:

**Total Giving through the 8 districts from local units:**

\$392,955 (1.1% decrease from 2024 Giving)

**All Love Offerings:**

\$13,620. (9.6% decrease from 2024)

(Includes Spiritual Growth Retreat, Mission u, and Annual Celebration donations)

**Undesignated Mission Giving Sent to UWFaith National Office:**

\$312,853 (increase of 1.7% from 2024)

**Designated Giving to UWFaith National Office and GBGM/UMCOR:**

\$35,415 (4.4% decrease from 2024 Giving)

**Donations to Other Projects:**

(Crossnore Communities for Children, WNCC Scholarships, Arise Collective, etc.)

\$1801 (28% decrease from 2024 Giving)

Congratulations on not only meeting our pledge of \$300,000 in Mission Giving but overpaying by \$12,853. Share the news of the good work that United Women in Faith is doing around the world!

[We Believe Love in Action can Change the World.](#)

Bess Redmond, Conference Treasurer



### Save the Date:

Winds of Change

Western North Carolina Conference

United Women in Faith

**Spiritual Growth Retreat**

**June 11-13, 2026**

Lake Junaluska, NC

Session Leader: Rev. Lucy Robbins

Mission Session Leader: Rev. Holly McKim

### A Message from our President...

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to 2026! We have an exciting year ahead of us. On March 1 we celebrated with our Missional Institution Bennett College 100 years of being an all Female school! Assembly will be here before we know it. You do not want to miss this opportunity to gather with our sisters from all of the world. There are many other events where we can come together in the conference please take advantage of these opportunities to be with your sisters and worship God!

Blessing,

Lynn Alexander, WNCC President

[Town Hall Zoom Call](#)

[2nd Monday of each month @7pm](#)

[Ask Questions > List upcoming events > Share from your unit](#)

[ZOOM Link](#)

### Vice President's message ,

Greetings, my UWFaith Sisters!

I am excited to begin this journey with you as your Vice President, and I ask for your prayers and support as I strive to make wise and faithful decisions for the work ahead. We are United Women in Faith, and we are in mission together—showing up, taking action, and making the world a better place for our sisters, youth, and children who are under-resourced. We get it done. We are **UNSTOPPABLE**.

This year's Annual Celebration will be held in September 12 at St. Luke's UMC in Hickory, with Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice from our National UWFaith Office, as our keynote speaker. Our Leadership and Development Day (LDD) on October 17th will be held virtually. This day provides an important opportunity for Conference Officers to meet with their District counterparts as they prepare for the responsibilities of their roles.

Love, hope, peace and joy!

Linda (LindaLu) Rice Greer, WNCC VP

## What will be YOUR Legacy?

Thank you, Western North Carolina, for your strong support of **The Legacy Endowment Fund!** Our national goal for the Legacy Endowment Fund is \$60 Million dollars. In Western North Carolina...so far through December 31, 2025 we have given \$574,895.36...**third in the nation**. Not including planned gifts, even significant ones, that will happen in the future. As of December 31, 2025 the Legacy Endowment fund had reached **\$53,819,136.27!** We have accomplished in reaching 89.7% of our \$60 million national goal and we can be excited and proud that we have come this far together! **Every gift of every size, every current gift, every continuing Legacy Builder gift, and every planned future gift, moves us towards our goal.** A gift to the Legacy Fund is not just of monetary value; it's an investment in the next generation of bold, courageous women who will live their faith by showing up and taking action in service of love, justice, and mercy. Thank you for your commitment to the work of United Women in Faith!

### Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund:

Make a gift to the Legacy Fund through your local unit United Methodist Women treasurer.

**Online** on the national office website at <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/>

- **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, M-F)
- **By check:** note "Legacy Fund" in memo and mail to: United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017
- **Be a Legacy Builder** by making a gift of at least \$18.69 per month

**Other methods** include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. If you are interested in making a gift like this, contact the national office at 828-278-7771 or e-mail [legacy150@uwfaith.org](mailto:legacy150@uwfaith.org) for more information.

**Learn more on our website at** <https://wnccumw.org/legacyfund/>

Lynne Gilbert  
Legacy Liaison  
WNCC UWFaith

## Membership Nurture and Outreach

Sweet greetings of great joy and peace I extend to you, my sisters in faith! What a ride we've been on since last we gathered. I do pray all remains well and content within your hearts and households. As we begin another year of adventure, I encourage us to remain vigil in nurturing and outreach to all our sisters as best we can to ensure each of us are navigating life satisfactorily...and if not, lifelines are tossed out.

This precious sisterhood of faithful women is centered around our commitment to live out and uphold our Purpose for the building of God's kingdom and His family. An epiphany was recently revealed to me as just how priceless this relationship is to me... oddly enough, through the traditional marriage vows. When we become a part of this sisterhood, we do in effect vow "to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law, and this is my solemn vow." We do this so well. I'm so glad to be a part of this family. Remain robust in tending to the flock, my bodacious nurturers, as we lean on each other.

With gratitude, adoration, and peace,

Kim Eller (Membership, Nurture & Outreach, WNCC)

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### **Take Action!**

For the 2025-2028 quadrennium United Women in Faith will continue to work for climate justice and ending mass incarceration of communities of color. Ways to engage:

- ◆ View and discuss 'Never Give up: Cynthia and Michelle's Faithful Fight Against Mass Incarceration', a short film that has a discussion guide. And read the book 'Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls', from author Dr. Monique Couvson.
- ◆ Advocate for Cleaner and renewable energy.
- ◆ Email and call your representative to end ICE funding.



You may contact me for assistance,

Laquetta Barbee (Social Action Coordinator, WNCC)



### **Help Wanted!**

Conference Historian

Are you interested in...

Learning the rich history of the United Women in Faith? Continuing the important practice of record keeping?

...then boy do we have the job for you!

UWFaith is in need of a Historian. If you or someone you know it interested, please contact Lynn Alexander—336-456-6686—[alexanderlynn807@gmail.com](mailto:alexanderlynn807@gmail.com)



## Mission u 2026!

Experiencing Emmanuel, 2026 Mission u is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, August 21- 22, 2026 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory NC. Our study leaders for 2026 are: Sandra Williamson, Tracey Owens and Joy Primm. This is an exceptional team of instructors with many years of teaching, lots of LOVE for United Women in Faith – and fun, engaging, and caring personalities! I know you won't want to miss this. We will be studying the adult curriculum, A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives, by Linda Louise Furtado. It is designed to help participants take a step back (and a closer look) at the various ways we see Emmanuel within and around biblical stories. This curriculum encourages participants to seek out and name the experiences of Emmanuel from biblical times to our present day as we look toward our future in faith. What can it look like to walk with God as people who face adversity, issues of justice, and a heritage of relational and spiritual connections?

Nancy Litton – Dean Mission u



United  
Women  
in Faith

### **WNCC United Women in Faith SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Do you know a student who is a member of a WNCC United Methodist Church? Will they attend one of the United Methodist supported institutions in our conference (**Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, Pfeiffer University**) for the fall semester 2026.

Then they are eligible to apply for a WNCC United Women in Faith scholarship!

Contact the scholarship committee chairperson for an application:

Tonya Lanier  
710 Burgess Street, Lexington, NC 27292-4214  
**336-470-1100 (cell) or Email: [sonshiners61@gmail.com](mailto:sonshiners61@gmail.com)**

Applications are due by **March 1, 2026**.

Interviews will be conducted via Zoom on **March 14, 2026**.

**You can support our scholarship program by:**

- Referring students.
- Praying for our students and United Methodist supported institutions.
- Contributing to the general scholarship fund as districts, units, circles, or individuals.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Blessings,

Tonya Lanier

WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Committee Chairperson



**UNITED WOMEN in FAITH  
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE  
2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

OFFICE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NO.	E-mail Address
President	Lynn Alexander 2026-2027 1 <sup>st</sup> term	807 Coronado Drive Greensboro, NC 27410	336-456-6686	<a href="mailto:alexanderlynn807@gmail.com">alexanderlynn807@gmail.com</a> Muir's Chapel-NP
Vice President	Linda Greer 2026-2027 1 <sup>st</sup> term	3201 Mt. Wesley Church Road Stony Point, NC 28678	828-244-2251 c	<a href="mailto:jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net">jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net</a> First Taylorsville-AP
Secretary	Lynda Morris 2025-2026 1 <sup>st</sup> term	737 Pavilion View Drive Apt. F305 Matthews, NC 28105	704-847-2521 h 704-619-2013 c	<a href="mailto:lmmorrisap@aol.com">lmmorrisap@aol.com</a> St. Stephen-ME
Treasurer	Bess Redmond 2025-2026 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	19 Wright's Cove Trail Fairview, NC 28730	828-231-7625	<a href="mailto:bessRed17@gmail.com">bessRed17@gmail.com</a> Biltmore-BR
Mission Coordinator Spiritual Growth	Betty Durham 2026-2027 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	1111 Parish Street Greensboro, NC 27408	336-542-8077	<a href="mailto:betty.durham50@yahoo.com">betty.durham50@yahoo.com</a> Centenary-NP
Mission Coordinator Education & Interpretation	Victoria Brown 2026-2027 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	9252 NC Hwy 8 Lexington, NC 27292	336-596-5523	<a href="mailto:Vickiebrown961@gmail.com">Vickiebrown961@gmail.com</a> Central -UW
Mission Coordinator Membership Nurture & Outreach	Kim Eller 2026-2027 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	1917 Palm Street Greensboro, NC 27405	336-457-0424	<a href="mailto:Kimelleryobev21@gmail.com">Kimelleryobev21@gmail.com</a> Newlyn St.-NP
Mission Coordinator Social Action	Laquetta Barbee 2026-2027 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	5103 McMurray Circle Greensboro, NC 27412	336-580-5879	<a href="mailto:Laquetta16@gmail.com">Laquetta16@gmail.com</a> Collins Grove-NP
Communications Coordinator	Gabrielle Alexander 2026-2026	15-A Yester Oaks Cir. Greensboro, NC 27455	336-254-0328	<a href="mailto:gabrielleasha@gmail.com">gabrielleasha@gmail.com</a> Muir's Chapel - NP
Secretary of Program Resources	Cathy McCauley 2026-2027 2 <sup>nd</sup> term	6835-A Farmingdale Drive Charlotte, NC 28212	704-965-6566	<a href="mailto:cathymc855@yahoo.com">cathymc855@yahoo.com</a> Hickory Grove-ME
Chair – Committee On Nominations	Deborah Ray 2026-2027	569 Country Club Drive Waynesville, NC 28786	828-400-3499	<a href="mailto:wray@charter.net">wray@charter.net</a> Waynesville First-SM
Dean – Mission u	Nancy Litton	1552 Tammy Court Kannapolis, NC 28083	704-794-7930	<a href="mailto:ms.nancy_litton@gmail.com">ms.nancy_litton@gmail.com</a> Trinity-ME
Parliamentarian	Martha Phillips 2022-2025	P.O. Box 49 Linville Falls, NC 28647	828-467-3167	<a href="mailto:mcwphillips@gmail.com">mcwphillips@gmail.com</a> Concord-BR
Historian	TBD			
Scholarship Chairperson	Tonya Lanier 2026 - 2027	710 Burgess Street, Lexington, NC 27292	336-470-1100	<a href="mailto:Sonshiners61@gmail.com">Sonshiners61@gmail.com</a>
National Board of Directors	Renee Hayes 2024-2028	6903 Fairview Rd. Trinity, NC 27370	336-707-2980	<a href="mailto:renee.hayes1956@gmail.com">renee.hayes1956@gmail.com</a> Trinity Memorial-NP
Webmaster/Legacy Liaison	Lynne Gilbert 2017 (no tenure)	1625 Milan Road Greensboro, NC 27410	336-207-3479	<a href="mailto:lynnegilbert2@gmail.com">lynnegilbert2@gmail.com</a> West Market Street-NP

**Advisors to Districts: (voice, but NO vote)**

Appalachian – Martha Phillips	Northern Piedmont – Lynn Alexander
Blue Ridge – Bess Redmond	Smoky Mountain – Deborah Ray
Catawba Valley – Virginia Robinson,	Uwharrie – Victoria (Vickie) Brown
Metro – Cathy McCauley	Yadkin Valley – Valerie Prim



**Western North Carolina Conference  
United Women in Faith**

Gabrielle Alexander  
15-A Yester Oaks Cir  
Greensboro, NC 27455

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Residents of Western NC mountains are still needing our help. Gift Cards and Hygiene Kits are our immediate needs.

Please contact Vickie Brown at 336 596 5523 or email [Vickiebrown961@gmail.com](mailto:Vickiebrown961@gmail.com) if you have any questions and would like information on picking up your donations for WNCC. Thank you for your support